

Minutes	Executive Committee Governor's Commission on Senior Services
	January 11, 2008 676 Church Street, Salem
Members:	John Helm (Chair), Eunice Dutton (Vice-Chair), Elaine Barrett, Peggie Beck, Chuck Frazier, Robert Lawrence, and Remona Simpson
Excused:	Denise Dion
Staff:	Becky Murphy and Marc Overbeck
Guests:	Debbie Bowers and Chris Flammang
<i>Call Meeting to Order</i>	
<u>Approval of October & November Minutes</u>	
MOTION: Approval of minutes as written. (Eunice Dutton/Remona Simpson). <i>Passed.</i>	
<u>Review Agenda</u> – Marc reported that Chris would call in approximately at 11:00 to speak about the EEOC ruling on retirement plans. Members agreed to take this issue up while Chris was on the phone.	
<u>Announcements</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eunice reported that her Advisory Council plans to be active during the February session, through letter writing, sending e-mails, and visiting with legislators. • Bob mentioned the Quad-County Advocacy Coalition (Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington counties) in the Portland Metro area, whose members are working with their legislators. • Eunice said that while most of the Executive Committee members are active in their local area advisory councils, she would like to encourage all GCSS members to be involved in their respective Councils. • Remona mentioned her Advisory Council invited the public (with emphasis on clients served and their families) and the local area legislators for their December meeting, and it was a success. 	
<u>Discussion Items</u>	
<u>Follow-up on Health Care Reform</u> – Chuck said he regretted Gov. Kitzhaber's presentation at the December meeting was an abbreviated one. He was able to get the complete PowerPoint presentation. He felt it would be a good handout with more	

discussion at January's meeting.

Chuck also thought possibly an update on SB 329 would be useful.

Robert suggested having the 50+ Dialogue presentation also.

Decision: Marc will request Liz Baxter to facilitate discussion if she is available. Chuck volunteered to assist with facilitation if needed. This would be during lunch. The 50+ Dialogue would be afterwards.

The group agreed that the Certificate of Need discussion might have to be at another meeting. Members asked Marc to see if it could be arranged to have the Certificate of Need discussion during lunch on Thursday.

Community Mental Health Coalition – Chuck reported members were requested to recommit after the first of the year review, that has just taken place. Denise is unable to make the time commitment; however, Chuck would like to continue attending (mostly by phone) and will keep bringing up SB 781 and older adults.

MOTION: Continue GCSS participation in the Community Mental Health Coalition with Chuck as the representative. (Eunice Dutton/Remona Simpson) *Passed.*

Chuck also reported the Deschutes County Mental Health group is rewriting the local county plan.

Bylaw Proposal – The Bylaw proposal was discussed.

MOTION: Submit the Bylaw proposal to the full commission for consideration and vote at the January meeting. (Robert Lawrence/Remona Simpson) *Passed.*

EEOC Ruling on Retirement Benefits – Chris reported on a ruling that was made by the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regarding changing or canceling health insurance benefits for retirees is not considered age discrimination when they are old enough to draw Medicare. Discussion included AARP's statement of opposition to the ruling.

CONSENSUS: Keep EEOC Ruling on Retirement Benefits as an agenda item at the January meeting.

Prospective Members – Marc has received confirmation of two of the three prospective members attending the January meeting. Eunice reported (with assistance from Remona and Elaine) on the process and how well it worked. She

also reported about she appreciated the members of the subcommittee for their work.

Financial Report – Elaine reported she thought she had a pretty good grasp of GCSS expenditures with Claudia and Becky's reports. Elaine thought the first six months of the biennium (July – December 2007) was a much smaller expenditure total than usual, only \$15,500---as there were no meetings for two months, no out of the area meetings, or Planning Days. The budget for the biennium is \$145,500.

Future of Long-Term Care/Forums – John reported on a conversation he had with James Toews regarding the Long-Range Plan. It seems the comprehensive long range plan is more complex than expected. James Toews hopes to have an outline drafted in a couple of weeks and hold a stakeholders meeting in March.

Debbie reported the Legislative Budget Note is the driver for Medicaid, Non-Medicaid, and Quality Assurance issues and the first report to the Legislature is June 2008. Policy option packages and legislative concepts will be worked on in the Spring for the 2009 Legislative Session.

Debbie and Robert reported on LC 28, which is being prepared for the February 2008 session. The Department has been directed to cost out/project expenses of a list of services.

Robert raised a question about the Ontario trip. Discussion followed that a GCSS meeting in Ontario would positively impact the area, show that the Commission cares for residents in that part of the state, and would be good networking. Peggie volunteered (with John B. and Jack Roberts' assistance) to begin planning, and the consensus of Executive Committee members was to keep moving forward.

Peggie, needing to leave the phone meeting, reported on attending the LTC Ombudsman Board of Directors meeting as a GCSS member. They hoped to partner with GCSS on appropriate issues for the 2009 session, especially guardianship.

Robert indicated that so far he has seen no allies for any public guardianship legislation.

Commission Lunches – Discussion was held on policy of GCSS furnishing lunches for anyone except members, staff, and speakers. An issue came up at the last meeting regarding lunches for guests.

CONSENSUS: Order Box lunches for both days in January. Clarification around lunch policy will be included in the new orientation materials.

Potential GCSS Orientation – The plan is to revise orientation materials to be

presented at the March meeting.

Evaluations Update – Final evaluations will be distributed at the January meeting.

Staff Update – Debbie reported briefly that a few issues occurred at the December meeting regarding the use of space. She reminded members that they are guests in the building. Extra supplies will be available in the Resource Room. If copies are needed, members need to use the GCSS staff. Parking options were also discussed. She reminded everyone of the need for flexibility.

Committee Updates

Committee chairs gave brief updates:

Caregiver Committee – Remona reported that Kay (co-trainer) will be presenting a mini-training (overview) of the Powerful Tools for Caregiving.

Elder Abuse Committee – Peggie reported on the need to proceed working on public guardianship issues and possible legislation.

Mental Health Committee – Chuck reported there will be three guests coming to participate in a discussion of older adult suicide prevention.

Legislature & Advocacy Committee and **Legislative Updates/Session** – Robert's report included updates around the February 2008 Session, especially

- LC 28 and testimony submitted by Robert and
- Legislative budgeting and rebalance (which will include rates, and potentially increased funds for OPI).

John distributed a February calendar that showed the session milestones and reviewed it with members.

Robert reflected it looks like SPD and GCSS are on the same page on issues.

Other Items—Good of the Order

- Robert reported that Chris stepped down as vice-chair of the Legislative Committee and he has appointed Barbara.
- Remona distributed a handout about Social Security disability hearings and their timeframes.
- Robert reported the Advocacy Coalition is recruiting members. Applications will be available at the January meeting.

Adjourned.